

warp and weft

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January, 1972

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor:

Help, help! Yes, that is what is needed as inventory time is here, and the past week has been spent trying to take an inventory of the yarns on hand here. What a monumental task it is. If it weren't for Uncle Sam, I think that I would forego this each year, but it does give one a chance to clean up — rearrange shelves — and you are even surprised when you find a cone or two of yarn you thought you had sold out, way in the back of a shelf.

And if you don't think trying to weigh and sort and rearrange 5,000 to 10,000 lbs. of yarn isn't a job, why please come and do it for us.

Besides this, the new stock of the English tweeds came in 41 boxes strong, and over 3,000 lbs., so you can see what a monumental task it is to keep straight and neat and clean. And once again, this shipment was not marked properly according to customs requirements, so we had to have tags printed, and put them in 1700 cones.

Also, a shipment came in from Scotland of about 500 lbs. of beautiful large loop mohair made in Ireland, and then two more shipments came in. One was a slub linen in bleached white which is a rich and beautiful yarn, and the other was a lot of 60 lbs. of a 2 ply black, silk, very, very, nubby, and which can be used for warp or weft.

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And another problem resulted in a shipment of about 600 lbs. of the linen and rayon flake yarn we have stocked for 10 years. The company that made this for us has notified us that they are going out of business, so we ordered 50 lbs. of all 12 colors before they discontinued, and it just came in. It was sort of like a flood here for three days, as we were inundated with a flood of yarn. Most of it has now been properly marked and packed and put away, and now all that remains to do is to advertise it, and weave with it, until some of it goes out, or until we can use some of it ourselves.

Besides all this, it was decided that a break was needed, so we had two of the younger girls keep the shop open, and the week between Christmas and New Year's was used in personal family visits.

Now, as we are behind schedule and it seems to be very common, we are trying to get caught up and to plan future projects, and to get out a new catalogue, and to take pictures for the catalogue, and do 1001 things that need doing at the beginning of a new year. Where does the time go???

Besides all the items we have mentioned, we must tell you that we have just received 125 packages from England, and each of these contains four copies of the Maidment book on Bobbin Lace, which we published ourselves. This is now available for immediate shipment, so if any of you would like a copy of A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HANDMADE BOBBIN LACE, by Margaret Maidment, we now have them ready to ship. And besides this, we also have the other lace book we republished, which is entitled "The Romance of the Lace Pillow," by Thomas Wright.

We hope to have in March, the last of the books that are currently being republished, LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING, and then we will have eight different books available which we are either publishers, or distributors of. Perhaps I should list these in one of the classified ads this month.

You can see why the hours of the day do seem to fly by, with all these activities here. Enough about us this month, and now how about hearing what you are doing.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph:

This photograph is from the Linen Mill in Scotland that is making the 7/2 and 10/2 Thirsty Linen for us. Here in this photograph, they are warping a beam with about 300 to 400 yards of linen warp, in preparation for weaving linen tarpaulin and mail bags for the English and Scottish government. Notice the large 5 to 10 lb. tubes of linen warp in the background. The linen comes from these, through a separate thread guide for each thread, into a guide in the back, over a series of rollers for making the tension even, and then through a comb-like affair (could be called stretcher or temple), and then finally onto the warp beam. You can note that this is a fairly old picture, as you can tell by the length of the dress, but it is still being done in exactly the same way, as I watched it this past summer.

This Month's Book Review:

This month, instead of a strictly weaving book, I want to tell you about a general craft book from England, which I find fascinating.

It is the book entitled, "THE SHELL BOOK OF COUNTRY CRAFTS," by James Arnold, and it is a book that I discovered while in England looking for weaving threads.

So many of the crafts in this book are minor crafts, but in the day when we did not have all of our modern conveniences, these crafts were all popular, and useful, and utilized the materials of nature. I would venture to say that 95% of Americans do not realize what does go into some of these crafts explained in this fascinating book.

Do you know how to make a dry-stone wall, how to make willow baskets, how to make a bow and arrow, how to make corn dollies? Have you seen any directions for making briar pipes or saddles or bagpipes? There are sections on wood-turning, making gates of wood, walking sticks, making wood rakes, scythes, forks, helms yokes, shovels and flails. Or how do you make a hedgerow, or make charcoal. There are also sections on weaving, and bob-

bin lace work. Would you like to know how the first boats, called coracles were made? Would you like to make flint arrow-heads, or do some coopering (making of baskets and barrels)? Do you have the first idea of how to go about thatching a roof, or how to start wood carving, or how to do wrought-iron work?

This is just a little of the crafts that are in this outstanding and interesting book. It does not give all the complete details of all of these crafts, but it does give you the beginning details of how to start these crafts, and it is a definite challenge to your imagination, and a start in a world of handicrafts that most of us do not know about.

What is fascinating about this book are the photographs. There are 12 of the full two page color photographs, plus 64 black and white photographs of these crafts or craft items, and then as an extra bonus, there are some 53 line drawings of these different crafts and craft work and items.

If you are interested in what life was like in our early colonial days, you will be entranced with this book, as it does show what our forefathers had to do to make life worth living.

Another interesting aspect of this book are the names given to the various craftsmen such as a chair-bodger, a Welsh crook maker, a besom maker, or an axe helve maker. I'll let you read the book to find out what these craftsmen are.

You know the more I look at this book, the more entranced one becomes, and it probably sounds silly, but you can see my enthusiasm for this book come through to you from this report. For instance, I had often heard of thatched roofs, but then I saw them in England, and I realize the work that goes into them, and this book gives you further insight into what goes into such a roof.

Perhaps some of my enthusiasm will rub off on you, and you will enjoy reading this publication as I did.

Title: THE SHELL BOOK OF COUNTRY CRAFTS

Author: James Arnold

Publisher: John Baker, London, England

Price: \$6.95 plus 41¢ postage and insurance

Available: Robin & Russ Handweavers

SNOW CROCUS

A fabric of single ply yarns used in both the warp and weft. Suggested use is for suitings, for skirts, for sportcoats, and other similar fabrics. Also, these single ply yarns give you the effect of being handspun, but they actually are machine spun.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	X	X	O	O	X	O
3	X	O	O	X	O	X
2	O	O	X	X	X	O
1	O	X	X	O	O	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

THREADING DRAFT:

4	W	W	W	W	W	N	N	N
3	W	W	W	W	N	N	N	
2	W	W	W	W	Y	Y	N	N
1	W	W	W	W	Y	Y	N	N

KEY TO COLORS

W — bleached white single ply homespun
Y — lemon and orange English wool tweed
N — natural color single ply homespun

WARP:

There are three different slubby wool yarns used in the warp and weft of this fabric.

W — bleached white wool yarn, single ply
Y — lemon and orange English wool tweed
N — natural slubby wool yarn, singles.

WEFT:

The same three threads that were used in the warp, were also used in the weft.

REED

An eight dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 16 threads per inch.

WIDTH IN LOOM

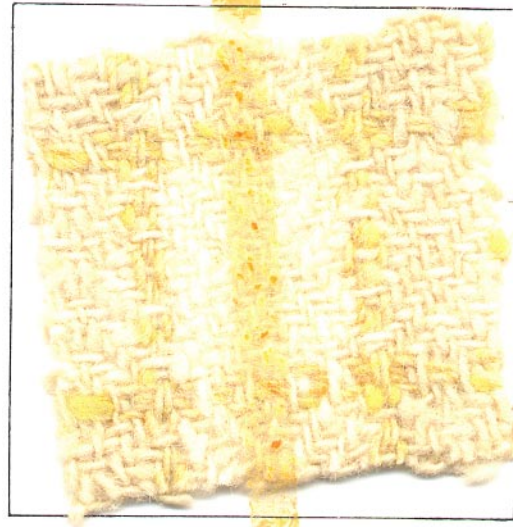
We set this up 41" wide, which included eight thread selvage on each edge of cotton, and when off the loom, it was just slightly under 40".

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

The treading sequence is exactly the same as the threading sequence of colors, and on the standard tie-up, you substitute the number of the harness for the number of the treadle. I will list it here also.

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SAMPLE:



1. Treadle No. 1 — lemon orange tweed
2. Treadle No. 2 — lemon orange tweed
3. Treadle No. 2 — lemon orange tweed
4. Treadle No. 1 — lemon orange tweed
5. Treadle No. 4 — natural slubby wool
6. Treadle No. 3 — natural slubby wool
7. Treadle No. 2 — natural slubby wool
8. Treadle No. 1 — natural slubby wool
9. Treadle No. 4 — natural slubby wool
10. Treadle No. 1 — natural slubby wool
11. Treadle No. 2 — natural slubby wool
12. Treadle No. 3 — natural slubby wool
13. Treadle No. 4 — natural slubby wool
14. Treadle No. 1 — lemon orange tweed
15. Treadle No. 2 — lemon orange tweed

16. Treadle No. 2 — lemon orange tweed
17. Treadle No. 1 — lemon orange tweed
18. Treadle No. 4 — bleached slubby wool
19. Treadle No. 3 — bleached slubby wool
20. Treadle No. 2 — bleached slubby wool
21. Treadle No. 1 — bleached slubby wool
22. Treadle No. 4 — bleached slubby wool
23. Treadle No. 3 — bleached slubby wool
24. Treadle No. 2 — bleached slubby wool
25. Treadle No. 1 — bleached slubby wool
26. Treadle No. 4 — bleached slubby wool
27. Treadle No. 1 — bleached slubby wool
28. Treadle No. 2 — bleached slubby wool
29. Treadle No. 3 — bleached slubby wool
30. Treadle No. 4 — bleached slubby wool
31. Treadle No. 1 — bleached slubby wool
32. Treadle No. 2 — bleached slubby wool
33. Treadle No. 3 — bleached slubby wool
34. Treadle No. 4 — bleached slubby wool

END OF ONE COMPLETE REPEAT. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

I was doubtful about weaving this fabric of all single ply yarns, using it as both warp and weft. However, to my amazement, there was not one broken warp thread in the 10 yard warp, except for the few knots that were in the thread. Then the spee-dee cement was used to glue these together, and the weaving proceeded, and you can't even see where the knots were when you look at the whole fabric.

However, some hints are in line to help you from having any trouble with a single ply yarn of this type.

First of all, I feel that a stretcher or temple, to keep the fabric wider on the loom is a great help. It keeps the fabric from weaving in narrower, and the wider you keep it, the less trouble you might have with any of the wool threads clinging together.

Secondly, we used a cotton selvage of 8 threads. And this cotton selvage is not wound on the warp beam, but is threaded through the reed and heddles and the eight ends are wound together on a weighted spool and hung down over the back beam of the loom. I want to make sure you have enough weight on

these spools also to keep them fairly taut, and this also helps keep the fabric wider and prevents the fraying and fuzzing of the selve threads on your loom, where most problems do develop.

And when I put the temple or stretcher on this fabric, I would always make sure the teeth of the stretcher are fastened in the cotton selvage threads. I would suggest a 10/2 or a 10/3 cotton for this selvage thread. Natural would perhaps be best, but as you do not use the selvage on most fabrics, it could also be in color.

And the beat is important. You want to use a light or medium double beat, and you should beat with the shed open, change to the next shed, and then beat again. Be sure to use a light beat though, and not a firm, tight beat, or your fabric will be too stiff and boardy.

This yarn is one of our imported yarns from England. The light yellow or yellow with orange flecked yarn is one of a line of 14 colors of tweed yarn, we are now stocking from a manufacturer in England. I'm hoping that these will be standard colors that we can repeat year in and year out. And the two other yarns used in the sample, the natural and the bleached white slubby wool yarns are also from England.

These all are spun with a little light oil, so when washed and pressed as is this month's sample, then it comes out a little lighter in color than it appears on the cone.

This sample was washed in lukewarm water in the washing machine, extracted, and then steam pressed, and it makes up into a beautiful, soft fabric. This is one of the advantages of using a single ply yarn as compared to a two ply yarn. The resulting fabric is almost always softer and has more hand to it.

We are preparing sample cards, showing the colors in the wool tweed yarns, and they will probably be available in about two months if any of you are interested.

We have just 200 lbs. of each of the natural and white slubby wool on hand.

Also, we had a 10 yard warp on the loom, and from this 10 yard length, we did get 8¾ yards of finished fabric. There is slightly more take up in the single ply yarns than in the two ply yarns.

COST OF THE THREADS USED

The three threads used in the warp and the weft of this fabric are all \$4.80 per lb. We have 23 colors of this and the tweed yarn on hand at present, and it is all \$4.80 per lb. The natural and the white slubby yarns have about 1200 yards per pound, and all come on about 1½ lb. cones. The tweed yarn is supposed to have about 1600 to 1700 yards per lb., but I haven't checked it yet.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

In the 10 yard warp, 41" wide, we used 2 lbs. 7 oz. of white slubby wool, 1 lb. 3 oz. of natural slubby wool, and 1 lb. 2 oz. of the yellow tweed wool. Thus, this yarn at \$4.80 per lb., comes to a total of 4 lbs. 12 oz. for the 10 yard warp. The total cost is \$22.80, or the cost per yard comes to \$2.28, for the warp.

In the weft, we used 1 lb. of the yellow tweed, 1 lb. 12 oz. of the white nubby wool, and 1 lb. 2 oz. of the natural. Thus, it took 3 lbs. 14 oz. of yarn for the weft in 8¾ yards of fabric. Thus the weft cost comes to \$2.13 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 41"	\$2.28
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$2.13
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$4.41

SPINNING BOOKS AVAILABLE

1. The Joy of Spinning, Kluger \$6.95
2. The Magic of Spinning, Channing \$1.65
3. Spin Your Own Wool, and Dye It and Weave It. Mollie Duncan \$3.95
4. Your Handspinning, Davenport \$3.95
5. Handspinning, Art & Tech., Fannin\$12.50
6. Complete Guide to Handspinning \$1.95

All in stock for immediate shipment. Add postage and insurance to all orders. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

MACRAME' BOOKS AVAILABLE

1. Macrame', Art of Creative Knotting
by Virginia Harvey \$8.50
2. Fisherman's Knots & Nets \$4.00
3. Step by Step Macrame', Phillips \$2.50
4. Square Knot Handcraft Guide \$4.00
5. Macrame', Creative Knot-Tying
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6. Beads plus Macrame', La Croix \$2.95
7. Graded Lessons in Macrame', Knotting
and Netting, Louisa Walker \$2.00
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9. Macrame', Creative Knotting, Pesch .. \$2.95
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2. BOBBIN LACE, by E. Gubser \$5.00
3. WARP & WEFT from TIBET, King \$3.50
4. SECTIONAL WARPING
MADE EASY \$2.50
5. AN EYE FOR COLOR, Klein \$9.95
6. ROMANCE OF THE LACE PILLOW,
by Thomas Wright \$11.50
7. A GUIDE TO HANDMADE BOBBIN LACE
WORK, by M. Maidment \$12.50
8. LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING,
by Eileen Bolton \$4.95

Postage and insurance extra on all orders.

Dealer inquiries invited on these eight publications.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

BYWAYS IN HANDWEAVING

by Mary Meigs Atwater is in stock now. Has been hard to obtain. \$7.95 plus postage is the price. This seems to be the only book in print now, with some information on Inkle weaving, and with some details on card-weaving, finger weaving, and other related off loom techniques. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 NATURAL SHADES OF 3 PLY RYGJA, WOOL YARN FROM NORWAY.

About the weight of a 2 ply knitting yarn, this yarn is excellent for knitting or weaving. It is available in natural dark grey, medium grey, light tannish beige, dark brown, and natural white. It is water repellent, as long as natural oil is retained in the fibre. \$1.90 per skein of 100 grams. About 350 to 375 yards per skein. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ENGLISH MOSS, A 2 PLY ENGLISH WOOL TWEED

This one is light green or mossy green in appearance with brown and green and yellow flecks. Has about 1000 yards per lb. Can be used for warp or weft. \$4.00 per lb. on about 2 lb. cones, or \$2.25 per 1/2 lb. tube if we wind it off. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

14 ENGLISH WOOL TWEED YARNS

This single ply tweed yarn has about 1700 yards per lb. It has some colors with lots of colored flecks, and some colors with just a few colored flecks. All in oil, and can be used for warp or weft. Sample sheets will be available upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10 DIFFERENT SLUBBY RAYONS IN VARIOUS WEIGHTS

In shades of green, olive, avocado. These different assorted slubby rayons are all \$3.20 per lb. while they last. Available on 1/2 lb. tubes at \$1.60 each. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ALPACA, SHETLAND WOOL AND ORLON

In a 3 ply finger weight yarn. Can be used for knitting as well as weaving. 4 colors available. All of these are heathers and would make nice light weight pullover sweaters, sport coats, etc. \$4.00 per lb. Limited amounts of these available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

5/1 BLEACHED WHITE SLUBBY LINEN

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HEAVY SLUB LINEN AND RAYON COMBINATION

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AN EYE FOR COLOR

by Bernat Klein. This is one person's theory of color, and of living today, and has many color plates. Limited edition publication, and it is \$9.95 plus postage and insurance. Read this, and you will be enthralled with the theories. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARDWEAVING BOOK, SHUTTLES, CARDS AND THREAD.

In stock all the time. The cardweaving book with 53 patterns is \$3.50, our own special design of a cardweaving shuttle is well made and finished and is \$1.50, and a pack of approximately 100 cards is \$3.00. And try our double-quick cotton in 18 colors at 45¢ per skein of 115 yards. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

11 COLORS IN 8 and 12 CUT RAYON CHENILLE:

We have 6 colors priced at \$3.50 per lb. on 1/2 lb. tubes, and 6 colors priced at \$4.00 per lb. on 1/2 lb. tubes. Most of these have either 1,000 or 1,200 yards per lb. Light Yellow, Cream, Lt. Blue, Wine Red, Light Aqua, and variegated yellow are \$4.00 per lb. Dark Brown, Chartreuse, Yellow Gold, Gold, a Celery Green and a Dark Chartreuse are the colors at \$3.50 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

STEP BY STEP KNITTING

This paperback as well as Step by Step Macrame, is published by Golden Press and is \$2.50 per copy. Excellent instructions, and written by Mary W. Phillips. Postage is extra. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THIRSTY LINEN IN 10/2 and 7/2 SIZE.

These two linens are spun to order for Robin — Russ in Scotland. It is spun for absorbency out of fine quality linen. Comes on 1 lb. tubes. 1500 yards per lb. for the 10/2, and 1050 yards per lb. for the 7/2. Price not settled yet, until we find out what duty and shipping charges are, but should be about \$4.50 to \$5.00 per lb. Due in any day now. It is a creamy white, not quite a dead white, and makes the large, absorbent, linen bath-towels, as well as smaller ones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVING WITHOUT A LOOM

has been reprinted and is in stock again. Excellent for teachers, and for children, this book by Sarita Rainey continues to be popular. \$7.95 plus postage and insurance. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
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NEW!!!

Functional Overshot by Grace D. Blum

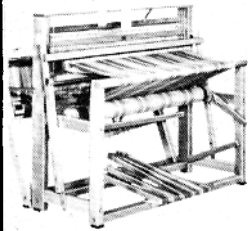
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